

What is claimed is:

1. ~~The use of riluzole for preparing a pharmaceutical composition suitable for the treatment of multiple sclerosis.~~

2. Method for the treatment of multiple sclerosis, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of riluzole.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said pharmaceutical composition comprises a pharmaceutically effective carrier.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of an additional agent.

5. ~~The method of claim 4 wherein said additional agent is selected from the group consisting of interferon beta -1a, interferon beta -1b, or copaxone.~~

6. Method according to claim 2 wherein said composition is administered in an amount of between about 10 and about 500 mg per day.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said composition is administered in an amount of between about 50 and about 250 mg per day.

8. A method for treating a patient suffering from multiple sclerosis comprising the step of administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising riluzole in an amount effective to inhibit, minimize or delay the development of spinal cord atrophy associated with MS.

9. ~~The method of claim 8 wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of an additional agent selected from the group consisting of intereferon beta -1b, interferon beta -1a, or copaxone.~~

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10. A method for the treatment of a patient suffering from MS comprising the steps of administering to said patient:

- a. a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising riluzole;
- b. a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition selected from the group consisting of interferon beta -1b, interferon beta -1a, or copaxone.

11. A method for the treatment of a patient suffering from primary progressive MS comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising riluzole.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the administration of a therapeutically effective amount of interferon beta -1b, copaxone or interferon beta-1a.

13. A method for the treatment of a patient suffering from secondary-progressive MS comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising riluzole.

14. A method for the treatment of a patient suffering from relapsing-remitting MS comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising riluzole.

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